

Urban Sanitary District. Sandwich.  
Annual Report for year 1898.

10<sup>th</sup> February 1899.

Gentlemen.

I beg to hand you the Annual Report on the state of the Public Health of this Borough during the year 1898. The area of the District is 756 acres and the population according to the census of 1891. was 2794, it is probably now nearer 2900 on account of the influx of men engaged at Stonar in the Admiralty Harbour Works.

The total number of deaths during the twelve months was 47. Seven of these were the subject of Coroners Inquiry &c. five were certified as due to natural Causes, one to accident and one found Drowned, the deaths rate, due to disease alone, thus corrected is 45 - which yields a death rate of 16 per thousand.

So far as the deaths can be classified - 14 died in the Parish of St. Peters - 19 in St. Mary and 9 in St. Clement - As regards the mortality at different periods of the year - 10 died during the first quarter - 14 in the second - 11 in the third and 12 in the last - The chief mortality appears to have occurred during the second, quarter of the year - whereas in the year 1897. the last quarter was the most fatal.



The number of deaths during the past five years

was	1894.	50.
	1895.	53.
	1896.	38.
	1897.	45.
	1898.	45.

The number of births during the year 1898.  
was 77 (36 male, 41 female). This gives a  
birth rate of 27.5 per thousand.

The number of births during the past five years

1894.	80.
1895.	71.
1896.	87.
1897.	78.
1898.	77.

Summary of deaths extracted from the Registrar's  
Report for 1898.

7. Heart Disease.

4. Phthisis.

2. Bronchitis.

5. Measles.

1. Typhoid fever.

4. Senile degeneration.

1. Acute Cellulitis.

1. Scarlet fever.

3. Cerebral Haemorrhage.

1. Tuberculosis.

1. Whooping Cough.

5. Enteritis.

1. Diarrhoea.

2. Pneumonia

2. Cancer.

40.



40. brought forward.

1. Marasmus.

1. Intestinal obstruction.

1. Cirrhosis of Kidney.

1. Softening of Brain.

1 Fracture of Skull (Inquest.)

1 Cerebro Spinal meningitis.

1 Found Dead.

47.

The number of deaths of Infants under twelve months was 12. The causes were diarrhoea 6. measles 1. Whooping Cough 1. Tuberculosis 1. Acute Cellulitis 1. Pneumonia 1. Marasmus. This infantile death rate is a high one - the excessive mortality, from Diarrhoea is partly due to the hot summer. but chiefly to improper feeding in the absence of the mothers, many of whom are engaged the greater part of the day in fieldwork etc.

The number of deaths at age 65 or over was 10. the oldest been 82. four died between 70 and 80. years of age and three between 80 and 90.

There were 8 deaths caused by Zymotic Disease viz. Measles 5. Typhoid 1. Scarlet fever 1. Whooping Cough 1.

This gives a high rate and as will be seen was chiefly due to the epidemic of measles which was rather severe.

The number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during the twelve months was 25. Scarlet fever 18. Enteric 3. Erysipelas 2. Diphtheria 2.



The Scarlet fever cases occurred chiefly in January. February. March, & November. The enteric fever in February, June, & October. The Diphtheria in January & October. In February we had an epidemic of Measles & Influenza - and at the same time eight cases of Scarlet fever were notified - Two dwellings in the immediate vicinity of the Board Schools being infected I thought it advisable to recommend the closure of the schools (more especially as Scarlet fever was already somewhat prevalent in an adjoining village) This was done for a period of five weeks when the threatened changes appeared to have passed. In November a few more cases of Scarlet fever appeared but the cause was not discoverable - Since that month no further notifications have been received. The two cases of Diphtheria notified were isolated as to time and locality and appeared Sporadic.

One fatal case of Typhoid occurred in a child - on inquiry the probable cause was found in an Aunt of the child who came to and fro while nursing her own child who was suffering from that disease at Ramsgate. The second case notified was that of a man working near Margate who came home ill with it - In the third case the probable cause was that the sufferer had eaten oysters - some of which no doubt were in an unfit condition - this fact was noticed at the time, some of the oysters having been left uneaten on that account.



Within the last 18 months this portion of the County has been visited by distinct waves of Zymotic Disease and undoubtedly this Town has on more than one occasion, been within a measurable distance of an Epidemic and it is therefore my duty more than ever to refer to the fact that this Town has no immediate means of Isolation in the form of Hospital, House, or Ward and without it, <sup>in</sup> a Town such as this Preventative Treatment must necessarily be very inefficient.

The usual visits to the slaughter houses, Dairies and Common Lodging Houses were made by the Inspector and with few exceptions all were found in a Sanitary condition - As regards the slaughter houses - it would certainly be a satisfactory and Sanitary measure if a Public one was erected external to the Town and the Private ones within the Boro' abolished -

The inspection of Dairies is satisfactory but as in larger Towns, <sup>&c</sup> the power to examine cows (for Tuberculosis) - the milk of which is sold within its boundaries - would be a step in advance and very desirable, if the Sanitary Authority would enforce it.

Practically all the houses in the Town are now supplied with water from the Public works which is believed to be pure and good, but I would strongly advise that a quarterly or half yearly analysis and report should be regularly obtained in order, so far as



possible, to ensure timely warning in the  
event of its becoming in any way contaminated,  
more especially as it is now been largely  
used in the adjoining Rural Districts.


I remain Gentlemen

Your obedient Servant.

N. Thompson

M. J. H.





Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30070958>



